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UNCLAS BOGOTA 004569

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [CO](#) [FTRD](#)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMINGTON SALE TO INDUMIL INTENDS COMMERCIAL RESALE OF MUNITIONS

REF: STATE 052934

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Summary  
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**11.** (U) Post closely examined the proposed sale of Remington munitions components to Industrias Militar (INDUMIL)(reftel).

The components would be used for the production of 0.38 spl and 7.65 mm caliber ammunition. INDUMIL officials confirmed that this grade of ammunition is used only for self-defense and sporting purposes and would be available for commercial purchase. INDUMIL applies a tracking system to all of its weapons and ammunition and the military's Department of Arms Controls conducts background checks on any potential civilian buyers before issuing them a license to have or carry a weapon. End summary.

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Remington Purchase Intends Commercial Resale  
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**12.** (U) INDUMIL proposed purchasing Remington munitions components to produce .38 spl and 7.65 mm caliber ammunition. Officials from INDUMIL and the military's Department of Arms Controls told emboffs that this grade of ammunition is not intended for military use, but rather for self-defense or sporting revolvers and rifles. They confirmed that this type of ammunition would be for commercial sale to private citizens licensed to purchase limited quantities of ammunition for licensed firearms.

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Tracking and Control of Arms in Colombia  
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**13.** (U) INDUMIL is the Colombian government's single focal point for the production, importation, and sale of arms and ammunitions in Colombia, both for military and private use. INDUMIL has a system of internal accountability at its Soacha, Cundinamarca production facility. Each weapons component is stamped with a code and recorded in a log at every step of the assembly process so that all arms originating at INDUMIL can be traced. Each piece of ammunition is also stamped with a lot number that is recorded and also offers authorities the opportunity to track or trace ammunition.

**14.** (U) INDUMIL's oversight rests with the Colombian military's Department of Arms Controls, which is responsible for monitoring the sale of arms and munitions to private citizens as specified in Decree 2535 of 1993. Beginning in 1993, Colombians were required to register their guns. Today, 1,625,000 arms are legally registered in Colombia.

**15.** (U) The Department of Arms Controls oversees a background check of each individual interested in purchasing arms to ensure he or she does not have a criminal history. If the individual is deemed free of any wrongdoing, the Department of Arms Controls can issue a license to have a weapon or carry a weapon (two different licenses). Licenses to maintain a weapon at home must be renewed every 10 years, licenses to carry a weapon must be renewed every three years, and restricted-use weapons such as machine guns and those with more than nine rounds must be renewed every year. Colombian law states that only the government can produce or import arms; and all weapons, even those held and carried by private citizens, are legally property of the government and can be recalled at any time. By law, Colombians can buy no more than 100 rounds of ammunition every six months and to do so must produce the appropriate firearms license.

**16.** (U) Post discussed this issue with the Ministry of Defense's office of International Affairs, which also confirmed that the components would be used to produce ammunition for commercial sale. They emphasized, however, that the GOC seeks to thoroughly check and monitor private citizens who wish to purchase arms and related ammunition.

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